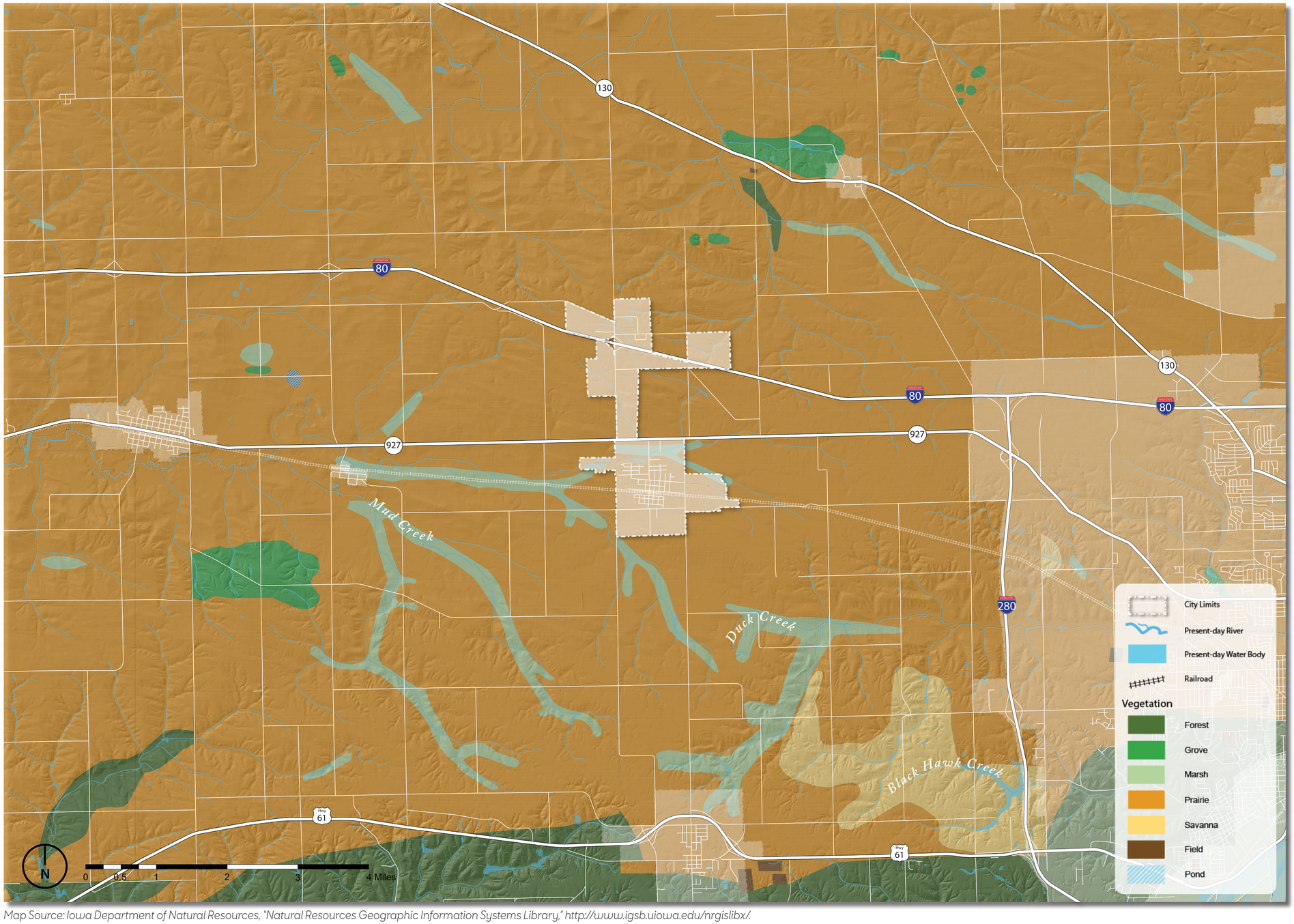

Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislibx/.

Historical Vegetation

The vegetation information shown here is derived from township maps made by the General Land Office (GLO) surveys beginning in 1836 through 1859. This information was digitized in 1996 as a resource for natural resource management and is useful "...for the study of long term ecological processes and as baseline data for the study of present day communities."[1]

The plant community names mapped by the GLO surveyors varied. The original terminology they used has been preserved in the original data, but we have renamed them on this map to reflect names used to describe contemporary vegetation communities.

Not all communities will have all vegetation types, because various conditions that affect vegetation, such as geology, wind exposure, seasonally high water or groundwater, and frequency of fire, differ from place to place.

Early land surveyors mapped the following vegetation types, some of which may not be presented in the vicinity of your community:

1. Forest: Tree dominated, with a mostly closed canopy. Ground vegetation shade tolerant. Developed under infrequent fire.
2. Grove: Isolated, relatively small, dense stand of small trees.
3. Marsh: Perennial non-woody plants; water and fire dominated.
4. Prairie: Perennial non-woody plants; fire dominated.
5. Savanna: Scattered trees, with an open canopy and prairie below. Fire dominated.
6. Field: Cultivated lands of early pioneers or Native Americans.
7. Pond: Small bodies of stationary, or "ponded-water."

[1] J.E. Ebinger, "Presettlement Vegetation of Coles County, Illinois," *Transactions of the Illinois Academy of Science* (1987): 15-24, quoted in Michael Charles Miller, "Analysis of historic vegetation patterns in Iowa using Government Land Office surveys and a Geographic Information System" (master's thesis, Iowa State University, 1995), 8.

Walcott

Historical Vegetation

Bioregional Context

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Iowa's Living Roadways community visioning